

**Remarks:**

Claims 1-3 and 5-11 are amended.

Claims 4 and 12 are original.

Claims 13-18 are new.

The application contains claims 1-18.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are amended to replace the term “obtainable” with “obtained”.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 are amended to remove multiple ranges.

Claims 9 and 10 are amended to remove multiple dependencies.

Claim 2 is further amended to include the phrase “in an oxygen-free atmosphere at a temperature above 400 °C” to further describe the heating process for the plane-parallel structures of SiO<sub>x</sub>. Support is found throughout the specification, particularly on page 7 lines 22-23.

Claim 5 is further amended to incorporate proper markush language.

Claim 11 is amended to remove multiple dependencies and convert it into a method claim. Support is found in original claim 11 and in the specification in the last paragraph on page 24 and on page 25 lines 5-19.

Claims 13 and 14 are added to reclaim material deleted from claim 1.

Claims 15 and 16 are added to reclaim material deleted from claim 2.

Claim 17 is added to reclaim material deleted from claim 9.

Claim 18 is added to reclaim material deleted from claim 5.

No new matter is added.

Consideration of the present claims on their merits is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tyler A. Stevenson  
Agent for Applicants  
Reg. No. 46,388

Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corp.  
540 White Plains Road  
P.O. Box 2005  
Tarrytown, NY 10591-9005  
Tel. (914)785-2783  
Fax (914)785-7102